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Flirt.com Review: The Ultimate Flirt Dating Site for Singles Seeking Flirts, Hookups, and More

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Flirt.com Dating Site Review

Finding love, or even just a fun flirt, is now easier than ever with the rise of online dating platforms that help you find the right connection. Among the most popular options is Flirt, a versatile dating site designed for singles seeking casual hookups, playful flirts, or even more meaningful relationships. Flirt offers various features that cater to different dating preferences, making it easy to connect with others.

This Flirt.com review will explore the platform's features, membership options, and security to help you determine if Flirt is the right place to meet your next match.

What Is Flirt.com?

At its core, Flirt.com is a versatile dating site focused on providing an enjoyable and casual environment where singles can flirt, chat, and form new connections. The platform caters to a wide range of relationship preferences, from casual hookups to more serious commitments. Whether you're exploring dating apps for the first time or experienced with online dating, Flirt.com dating is designed to be inclusive of all orientations and relationship goals. Users can easily use the site to connect with others, whether they're looking for casual fun or a lasting romance, making it a go-to platform for diverse dating needs.

Free Features on Flirt.com

The Flirt website offers a variety of free features, making it stand out from other dating sites. Once new members sign up, they can create a detailed profile, complete with a profile photo, to help attract more attention from other users. Additionally, users can send messages, browse other profiles, and even participate in chat rooms without needing to pay upfront. While free members have access to basic messaging and viewing profiles, they can still engage in meaningful interactions. This makes Flirt an appealing option for those wanting to explore the platform's features without an immediate financial commitment.

Flirt Subscription Options

While Flirt offers a free **sign-up**, upgrading to a paid Flirt subscription unlocks additional perks. Premium members can enjoy features like invisible mode, where they can browse profiles without

being seen, and the ability to see who has viewed their profile. Premium users also benefit from priority messaging, which places their chats at the top of others' inboxes. The Flirt pricing structure is flexible, allowing users to select from short-term subscriptions or even a lifetime membership for long-term use.

Subscription Period	Price	Features
1 Day	\$3.49	Full access to premium features for 24 hours, including invisible mode, priority messaging, and chat.
1 Week	\$6.39	Enjoy premium features for 7 days, such as profile visibility, invisible mode, and advanced messaging.
1 Month	\$21.99	All premium features for a full month, including priority messaging and enhanced profile visibility.
3 Months	\$48.50	Extended access to premium features, with discounts for a longer commitment. Ideal for long-term use.
Lifetime	\$127.99	One-time payment for lifetime access to all premium features, including advanced filters and messaging.

How Flirt Works: Registration and Features

Easy Way to Find Matches

Registering on Flirt.com is straightforward. Users are required to provide basic details, such as gender, preferences, and location. After setting up a profile, users can upload photos and start engaging with others through chat rooms and messages. One of the standout features of Flirt is its user-friendly interface, which makes it an easy way to find potential matches in your local area or even globally.

Meet New People on Flirt

The platform is designed to facilitate quick and casual interactions, allowing users to meet new people through features like the "Nearby" section, which shows users in your geographic region. This feature is perfect for those looking to flirt with singles in your area. The app's algorithm also recommends profiles based on your preferences, making the dating experience more streamlined.

Flirt App for Mobile Dating

In addition to the desktop version, Flirt.com offers a Flirt app, available for both Android and iOS devices. The Flirt app brings the same functionality of the desktop version, with a user-friendly interface that's optimized for mobile use. This feature ensures that users can flirt on the go, making it even easier to stay connected with potential matches.

Is Flirt Safe to Use?

Protect Yourself from Fake Profiles and Scammers

One of the biggest concerns with any online dating site is the risk of encountering fake profiles, scammers, or even interactions with a bot. To address these issues, Flirt.com has implemented two new options to protect its users, ensuring a safer and more secure experience. As one of the best dating platforms, the site uses advanced automated systems to flag suspicious behavior and prevent fraudulent activity. However, it's crucial for users to remain vigilant. If you feel that a member is

acting suspiciously, you can report the profile, and the admin team will investigate the case straight away to maintain a safe environment.

Flirt.com's Customer Support and Scam Prevention

Flirt takes user security very seriously, ensuring you won't waste your time dealing with fake profiles or scams. If you encounter a suspicious profile or suspect that the site is being used as a scam site, you can contact the Flirt support team immediately. They respond promptly, working to resolve the issue and maintain a safe environment. To further ensure your safety, it's recommended to review the terms of use and privacy policy before engaging with other users. This will help you know you can trust the platform and understand the steps to cancel my subscription if necessary. Regular account updates also help safeguard your profile from fraudulent activity.

Flirt Pricing and Membership Options on Flirt.com

Flirt Pricing and Membership Benefits

The Flirt pricing structure is designed to cater to different types of users, whether you're looking for a short-term membership or a long-term commitment. Here's a breakdown of the subscription options:

- 1 Day Subscription: \$3.49
- 1 Week Subscription: \$6.39
- 1 Month Subscription: \$21.99
- 3 Month Subscription: \$48.50
- Lifetime Subscription: \$127.99

Upgrading to a premium subscription unlocks additional features like invisible mode, priority messaging, and enhanced visibility within the platform. With a Flirt subscription, users can also enjoy enhanced customer support for faster issue resolution.

Pros and Cons of Using Flirt

Pros

- Free Features: Enjoy numerous features, such as basic messaging and profile browsing, without paying for a subscription.
- Flirt's Mobile App: The Flirt app allows users to take the experience on the go, which is ideal for busy singles.
- User-Friendly Interface: Both the desktop and mobile versions are easy to navigate, making it simple to connect with other singles.

Cons

- Automatic Subscription Renewal: Users should be mindful of subscription renewals. You may need to manually cancel your flirt subscription if you no longer wish to use the service.

Customer Feedback: Flirt Reviews and User Experience

What Do Reviews Say?

The general consensus from flirt reviews is that the platform offers a fun and casual experience for users looking to flirt and chat. Overall, positive reviews highlight the platform's user-friendly

interface and the availability of free features.

Write a Review and Share Your Experience

Have you tried using Flirt? We encourage users to write a review and share their experiences with others. Customer support is always looking for feedback to improve the site, and your input can help guide other users toward a successful dating experience.

Final Verdict: Is Flirt.com Worth Your Time?

In conclusion, Flirt.com is a great platform for singles looking to have fun, flirt, and meet new people. The site offers a range of features, from free access to premium membership options, ensuring that there's something for everyone. Whether you're looking for casual flirts or a serious connection, Flirt is a solid option for anyone wanting to dive into the world of online dating.

If you're considering joining a new dating site, Flirt.com offers an easy way to find love or simply have fun. Sign up today, and don't forget to check your inbox for messages from potential matches.

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10 Interesting Facts about Tarot Cards

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The versatility and inclusive nature of tarot cards put this instrument in the middle of attention for many people interested in divination. Through the cards, users find solutions for existential questions and resolve challenging situations in various life areas. The worldwide community of Tarot users is vast and includes representatives of different cultures.

In the context of uncertainty in the modern world, Tarot cards offer users stability. With the help of cards, one can get guidance and assistance in making meaningful life choices.

Adapting to modern life contexts, the practice of online tarot reading extends beyond fortune telling. Cards become a bridge between conscious and subconscious levels of being and let users dig deeper into their fears and aspirations. Let's learn more about Tarot. Read about ten interesting facts about tarot cards in the article below and immerse yourself into the world of this beautiful mystical art.

1. Tarot emerged in the 15th century in Italy

Tarot cards emerged in the 15th century in Italy and were initially used for playing tarocchi.

Initially, the deck consisted of a standard set of playing cards augmented with additional cards (trump cards) that have allegorical images. During the development of card games, the standard deck evolved into the modern form with a set of hearts, diamonds, clubs, and spades. In the later centuries, tarot cards got popularity as a divinatory tool and gained mysticism.

2. Tarot can be read online

In the digital age, tarot went through transformations becoming a working online tool. There are many online platforms like tarot reading services [TarotAtlas.com](https://tarotatlas.com) that make tarot practices accessible for users from any part of the globe. Among the benefits of accessing tarot reading online are:

- **Ease of access.** Digital platforms offer diversity. Users can engage in virtual tarot readings with professionals from around the world in several clicks. Moreover, there is no need for face-to-face interaction with readers.
- **Privacy and comfort.** One can access tarot reading services from the comfort of their home. Online spaces are safe, non-judgmental, and private.
- **24/7 availability.** Online tools for tarot reading are easy to access anytime. Flexible scheduling allows users to get readings in suitable time slots.
- **Cost efficiency.** Online reading is good for individuals who can't get an in-person reading from a live reader. Using apps for online tarot reading makes it possible to receive multiple readings each month.

3. Tarot was popular in Ancient Egypt

Scientists found tarot-like cards in Egyptian tombs. The symbols on those cards depicted various afterlife scenarios. Unlike European tarot, Egyptian cards were more bound to the mythology and spiritual ideologies of that time. During the evolution of Egyptian tarot, the symbols encountered different cultures and led to diverse modern adaptations of tarot decks.

4. Tarot helps to develop intuition

Some people believe in the idea of tarot's dark nature. However, there are users with the opposite views who consider tarot a tool for becoming more intuitive. Versatile decks of tarot have different symbolism and energy, hence they can evoke different intuitive responses. Users can develop their intuition by practicing with different tarot decks and understanding how various symbols resonate with them. Experienced users describe the process of tarot reading as channeling when they intuitively get signals from cards.

5. Tarot can help with personal reflection

By using tarot as a tool of self-discovery users become aware of their inner thoughts and desires. The symbolism of each card can be a key to one's introspection. Creating various prompts when using cards helps to reflect the emotions and hidden motivations of users. The process of **self-reflection** leads to empowerment and increased self-awareness.

6. Not all the details in the tarot are symbolic

One of the controversial tarot myths is that all the details in the cards are important. In fact, not all the symbols mean something in tarot. Moreover, there are hundreds of decks with various symbols.

The key to reading is experience and connection between the cards and the reader.

7. Tarot helps in decision-making

One can effectively use tarot cards as an instrument for gaining clarity on their life choices, triggers, repeated challenges, and beliefs. Many individuals use cards for journaling or meditation as an additional tool to prompt challenging questions. Readers often use tarot to get pieces of advice to solve challenging situations.

8. There are no bad tarot cards

Different types of cards and their combinations have multiple meanings. Some people may shy away from specific symbols because they do not know a lot about the interpretations of tarot cards. The meaning of each card depends on various factors and can be individual. For example, a death card can symbolically show that something ends in your life to give space for something new.

9. Tarot can be applied in all life areas

Reading tarot cards is a perfect tool for any life area. For example, one can prompt the cards to gain answers about career and professional guidance. Tarot is great for decision-making and making choices in business. Many users apply tarot to understand the dynamics of their relationships. The cards are great for navigating individuals' complicated emotions and challenging situations. Anyone who seeks clarity can use tarot reading.

10. Tarot influences various occult practices

Occult practices often include the symbols of tarot. Many readers integrate tarot with witchcraft, astrology, numerology, and other esoteric practices. Additionally, tarot is often an instrument in various rituals and spiritual experiences. Being a part of esoteric traditions, tarot cards at the same time stay a strong individual instrument for fortune telling and self-studying.

Afterall

Since the 15th century when tarot emerged, this instrument transformed into a powerful multifunctional tool. One can use tarot as a tool for self-reflection. People who often read tarot for others develop their emotional intelligence. Tarot helps to develop intuition. Many users who gain experience in tarot practicing admit the cards as a positive instrument for introspection. Tarot influences occult practices. Reading tarot helps in decision-making and fits any life area. Online tarot tools make reading accessible to a vast pool of users worldwide.

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Tape-Ins VS Invisible Tape-In Extensions: Which Is Right for You???

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

How much do you know about tape in hair extensions? They have revolutionized the hair extension industry, offering women an easy and effective way to change their looks and regain their confidence. Until today, **tape in ??extensions** have become a popular choice for those who want to add length and volume to their hair.

Due to various needs, different types of tape-in ??hair extensions have appeared on the market, including regular tape-in ??hair extensions, invisible tape-in hair extensions, mini tape-in ??hair extensions, and long seamless tape-ins. Among them, the most popular options include tape-in ??extensions and invisible tape-in extensions.

Therefore, this article will mainly discuss the differences between tape-in ?extensions and **invisible tape in extensions** to help you decide which type of extensions will best suit your hair needs and lifestyle.

What Are Tape In Extensions?

Tape-in ??extensions are the most popular extension trend on the market. They are thin tape wefts that lie flat on the head and blend seamlessly with the natural hair. When applied, a small strand of natural hair needs to be sandwiched between two pieces of extensions through the “sandwich” method.

The hair extensions are held in place by using replaceable double-sided tape as an adhesive. The tape can be reused and cut into smaller extensions at will.

What Are Invisible Tape In Extensions?

Invisible tape-in extensions (or injection tape hair extensions / seamless tape-in hair extensions) are the second upgrade of tape-in ??hair extensions. It uses more advanced injection technology, designed to mimic the hair growing from the scalp, 100% invisible, for a more concealed hair extension effect. Even on thin hair, it is undetectable and looks seamless.

Specific Comparison Between Tape Ins and Invisible Tape Ins

Now that you know what tape-in ??hair extensions and invisible tape-in ??hair extensions are, here is a detailed comparison to help you understand the similarities and differences specifically and make your best choice.

Similarities between Tape Ins and Invisible Tape Ins

1. Application Process

The application process for both tape-ins ??and invisible tape-ins?? is the same, using the sandwich method where a strand of your natural hair is sandwiched between two extensions. This method of application ensures that the extensions are more firmly fixed and will not fall off. The installation process for the extensions takes about 1-2 hours. If you are not an expert in this aspect, it is recommended to seek the help of an experienced hairstylist.

2. Removal Method

Just like the installation process described above, the removal process is the same for both. You need to use a hair extension remover to quickly remove the hair extensions. Then you can replace the tape and reinstall it.

3. Lifespan

The lifespan of tape-ins and invisible tape-in extensions is similar, and they will need to be reapplied after 6-8 weeks.

Differences Between Tape Ins and Invisible Tape Ins

1. Visibility

- **Tape-In Extensions:** The tape can be visible, especially if not applied perfectly or with thin hair.
- **Invisible Tape-In Extensions:** As the name suggests, invisible tape-in extensions are designed to be more invisible. The tape used in these extensions is PU-based and mimics your natural scalp. Even with thin hair or if create a [hairstyle](#) in a certain way, the extensions are virtually unnoticeable.

2. Comfort and Wear

- **Tape-in Extensions:** These extensions are generally comfortable, but the bulk of the tape can sometimes cause discomfort, especially if the tape is not held close to the scalp. Extensions can also feel heavy if there is a lot of volume.
- **Invisible Tape-in Extensions:** Invisible tape-in extensions are generally lighter, less bulky, and more comfortable to wear long-term. The thinner adhesive base conforms better to the scalp, reducing discomfort and allowing for a more natural fit.

3. Durability

- **Tape-In Extensions:** Usually made from Remy hair, the cuticle remains intact and faces the same direction. It is good in terms of naturalness and durability.
- **Invisible Tape-In Extensions:** Made from the highest grade virgin hair, cut directly from the same donor hair, retaining the original characteristics of natural hair. Virgin hair without any chemical treatment is superior to Remy hair in terms of quality and durability.

4. Cost

- **Tape-In Extensions:** Usually cheaper than invisible tape-in extensions. Cost depends on many factors, including brand, hair quality, length, and amount of hair used.
- **Invisible Tape-In Extensions:** Price is affected by many factors, just like tape-in hair extensions. They tend to be more expensive due to their advanced design, appearance, and comfort.

Which One Should I Choose?

If you are looking for a more cost-effective solution and don't mind the potential visibility of the tape, go for tape-in extensions, especially if you have thicker hair.

If you prefer a more seamless, natural look and are willing to spend a little more for the comfort and aesthetic benefits they provide, invisible tape-in ??extensions would be a good choice for you.

Conclusion

Both tape-in extensions ??and invisible tape-in ??extensions are great solutions for improving your hair, but the right choice depends on your specific needs and preferences. If you're still confused about which extensions to choose, consult a professional hairstylist. They can help you determine the best option for your specific needs.

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Alex Edelman

Elisa Leonelli · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

I was not familiar with [Alex Edelman](#) when I was invited by HBO to participate with other journalists in a virtual interview conducted by his friend Mandy Moore, star of the TV series *This Is Us*, about his Comedy Special *Just for Us*. So I did some research, found [a 2023 review](#) of the Broadway show in this publication, learnt that the 35-year-old Jewish comedian had first written and performed *Just for Us*, which centers on a meeting of neo-Nazis that Edelman attended in Queens, New York, at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2018. The TV special was taped in New York in August of 2023, and broadcast on HBO-MAX in April 2024.



Alex Edelman (c) Sarah Shatz-HBO

You may find more info on [this website](#) and watch the trailer at [this link](#).

After hearing Edelman speak so thoughtfully about the current state of the world in relation to his art and his Jewishness, I concluded that he is not only a funny comedian, but a serious human being worth listening to. That's why I decided to edit excerpts from the Q&A.



Alex Edelman (c) Sarah Shatz-HBO

Q: What did winning an Emmy for Outstanding Writing in a Variety Special mean to you?

A: Something happened while I was on stage and for the rest of the night, where it felt like I was reliving all the moments of the seven years of doing the show, from starting in England and touring it through Wales and Scotland, Germany and France, bringing it to Australia, doing it on Broadway and in L.A. I was experiencing all the senses of it, which felt complete and very nice. Sorry, it's very mawkish.

Q: Are there any specific live performances of your show that stand out for you?

A: The opening night in Los Angeles was really special, because it was my adopted hometown. The night that Jerry Seinfeld came, it was unbelievable to look in the audience and see Seinfeld and Cameron Crowe sitting in the second row. Also when Zelda Williams, whom I really love and respect and is a good friend of mine, came to see the show, I didn't tell her how a big part of it is about [Robin Williams](#), because I didn't know how to have that conversation. I asked her once why she didn't like stand up comedy, and she said, "because when you're raised by Mozart, you don't need to go see a lounge pianist," which is a really great answer.

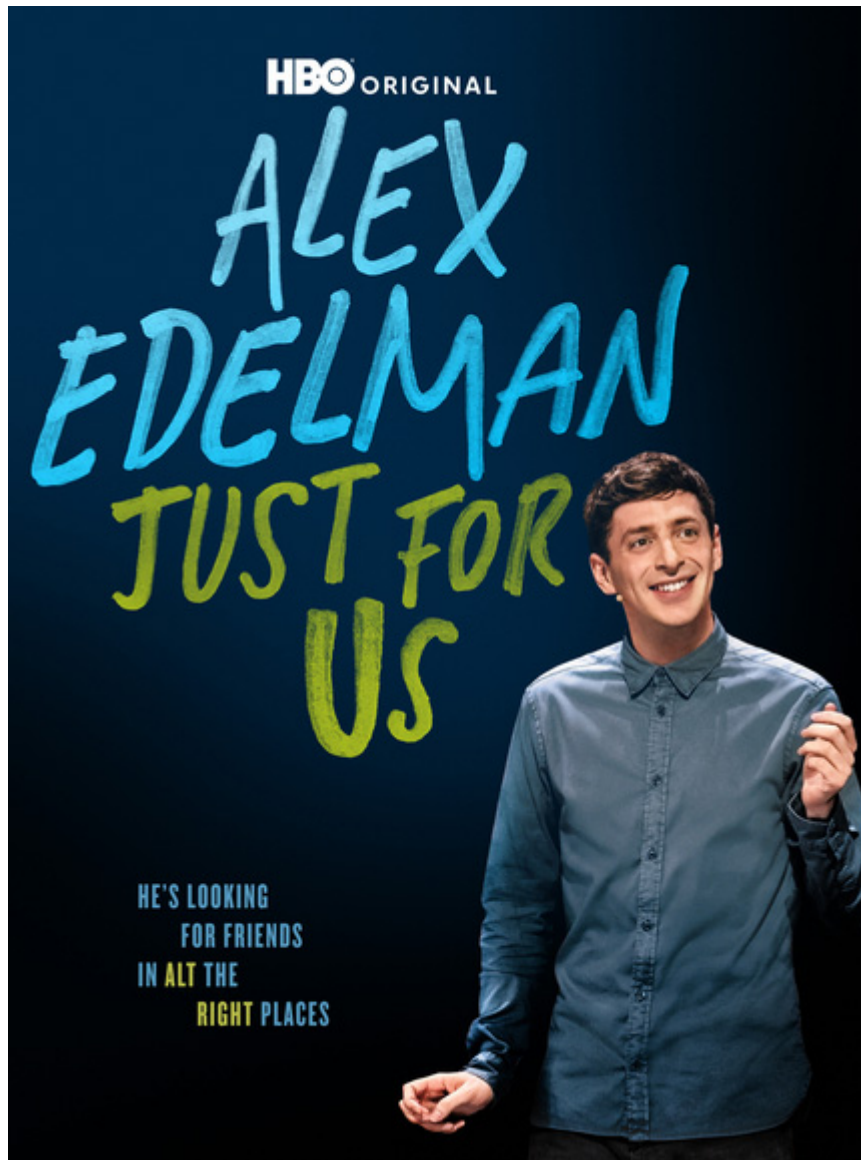
Q: You performed the show all over the world for the past seven years, during which the political

landscape changed dramatically. Have you felt that shift, did it alter the way that you talked about things?

A: It felt like it was an exercise in widening my aperture, in terms of how people encountered the show, and it was really useful to be going all over before it came to New York and Los Angeles. People assume that their worldview on identity or whiteness, American-ness or antisemitism, is the only view. So for me to have the experience of seeing how the show landed in places like Berlin and Melbourne, London or Edinburgh, gave me a base where the show could reflect the moment that we were in and be conversant with it, but not be totally changed by it. Also it carried me through night to night, when the news got really bad and tough, even before this past year, like the attacks on the [synagogue in Poway](#) and the [Tree of Life synagogue](#) in Pittsburgh. So being conversant with this piece of art, which asked the question of what is a Jew's place in the world, or anyone who feels like they're an outsider within a country or a certain group, was useful for me to constantly reflect on it.

Q. What was the most helpful feedback that you received from different audiences?

A: Early on in the run people were fascinated by and constantly asking, "Are Jews white?" It was the number one question I was asked after the show, because I'm telling this story about Jews and whiteness, but I would never answer it, because the truth is yes and no. First of all, there are many, many Jews of color, a huge number. But the question they're really asking is, "Are American Ashkenazi Jews white?" And the answer is: "Whiteness is a construct." Jews are privy to some of the benefits of white privilege, but not other benefits, and that's very confusing to Americans. International people never really ask the question, it feels like there's much less of an obsession with binaries outside the United States. When I was touring in Australia or England or Europe, people seemed largely fine with it. They understood that what I was saying is that I'm white enough to get into a room full of white nationalists, but not white enough to be accepted as white by people for whom whiteness is an important thing. So once I was able to explain that this isn't about binaries, the show kicked into another gear. Part of the reason that the show has done all right, it's because folks have understood it as a polemic against polemics or a show that asks people to be a little bit wary of certainty. And given where we are in our rancorous political moment and what's happening in parts of the world, including and especially the Middle East, the show benefited from leaning towards the desire for nuance and radical empathy for people who are not on your side, and for humanity.



Q: How did it feel to release the special at a time when anti-Jewish hate has been the worst that it's been in decades?

A: It felt good, it was really helpful and grounding to have a show to talk about what is on my mind and not being entirely about the current moment, but the eternal question of what it means to be Jewish, and it was really nice to hear from other people who shared that experience. Right after October 7th, when it all started in Gaza, I'm not being controversial by saying that the whole thing has been horrible to watch, and every day has brought new horror. So I was wondering if I should even be doing the show, after a couple of people sent me some pretty unsavory messages. I called my producer, and she said, "You have to do the show, it will be a nice escape." When I went to the back of the theater, before the show started, and I looked at the audience, I saw everybody watching the war on their phone. So I was like, "For an hour and a half, people don't have to watch a war."

The broader question is, how conversant with the exact moment should art be? Should it be evergreen, prismatic and the moment refracts through it, or should it be topical, a direct conversation? Should art be immediately responsive to topicality? The TV special was recorded before everything started happening in the Middle East, with antisemitism rising in the United States. But I found it's been a useful refractory, as opposed to a direct conversation. I think that, as an artist, you have to always weigh that. If you make a piece of work, how do you balance

timelessness with timeliness? Thank God it feels like *Just For Us* has been able to do both.

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How Live Chat, Community Bets, and Friend Challenges Are Changing the Face of the Gambling

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Live chat and community features have rapidly become integral elements of online gambling. They transform the way players engage with games and each other. Gone are the days when it was a solitary activity. Today, gambling and live broadcasting platforms such as ??? have embraced real-time interaction, which makes the experience more social and exciting than ever before.

The Rise of Live Chat

Live chat allows players to communicate with other users, share strategies, and **celebrate even the smallest wins** together. This interaction adds a human touch to what could otherwise be a cold, digital experience. Rather than simply placing bets in isolation, players can now chat with others and build camaraderie and a sense of community.

In gambling, the social aspect can greatly enhance the enjoyment. It offers players a chance to bond over shared experiences, whether they're cheering each other on or discussing game outcomes. This sense of connection keeps players engaged longer and often results in them returning to the platform more frequently.

Community Bets

Community bets are wagers where multiple players contribute to a single bet pool and increase the potential payout for everyone involved. This feature taps into the collective excitement of gambling, as players work together to predict the outcome of events. It shifts the focus from individual wins to a shared goal and fosters a deeper sense of collaboration. The benefits of community bets include:

- **Increased payouts:** More players in the pool means higher stakes and bigger rewards.
- **Shared excitement:** Watching the results unfold as a group adds to the thrill of the experience.
- **Stronger engagement:** The shared win/loss dynamic keeps players returning to the platform, eager to bet as a team again.

Friend

Challenges



Friend challenges add an extra layer of fun and competition. No matter if it's a head-to-head battle in a specific game or wagering on who can predict the next big sports result, friend challenges make betting feel more personal and interactive.

Why Friend Challenges Make the Process More Fun

The introduction of friend challenges enhances the social aspect of gambling and turns it into a shared experience with people you know. It's no longer just about the money — bragging rights and the satisfaction of beating a friend add a whole new level of motivation. Some reasons why friend challenges are so appealing:

- **Personal stakes:** Winning against a friend is about more than just money. It's about pride and social standing.
- **Tailored gameplay:** Players can customize challenges to suit their preferences and add an extra layer of excitement.
- **Better results:** Tracking results over time creates long-term competition, where players are eager for rematches and ongoing victories.
- **Interactive fun:** The ability to invite friends into a game makes betting less about the individual and more about shared enjoyment.

This feature is particularly attractive to players who thrive on competition and enjoy the social aspect of gaming. Directly challenging friends allows players to engage in a more personalized, interactive experience, which makes gambling feel like a friendly rivalry.

The Psychological Impact of Social Features



Social interaction in gambling isn't just about fun. It has a **significant psychological impact** on players. Humans are inherently social creatures, and the ability to connect with others during gameplay taps into deep-rooted desires for companionship and recognition. The introduction of live chat, community bets, and friend challenges meets these needs by offering players a sense of belonging and social validation.

When players engage with others, they're more likely to feel emotionally invested in the outcome. This increased engagement leads to more prolonged and frequent participation, as the game becomes more than just about winning money. Friend challenges and community bets also introduce elements of trust and collaboration, which further enhances the emotional connection players feel toward the game and their fellow participants.

How Social Features Benefit the Platforms

From the platform's perspective, social features are a win-win. They increase user engagement, which keeps players on the site longer and encourages repeat visits. They create a sense of loyalty among players, as they associate the platform with positive social experiences.

Moreover, these features make the gambling experience more dynamic and varied. Platforms that offer live chat and social betting options stand out from competitors and can attract a broader audience. They also tap into younger demographics who are used to social media and interactive platforms — something that provides a familiar environment where they can bet and interact simultaneously.

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Why Choose Chicago for Your Wedding? Here's Why This City Has It All

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

When it comes to saying “I do,” the location can make all the difference. With its iconic skyline, world-class food scene, and endless charm, Chicago has become the ultimate wedding destination for couples across the country—whether you’re local or flying in from the other side of the globe. And why not? This city offers a vibe that’s hard to beat. From stunning lakefront views to architectural wonders, Chicago has everything to create a wedding experience that’s more than just a one-day event. If you’re on the hunt for a location that combines beauty, style, and unforgettable moments, Chicago might just be your perfect match.

The Unbeatable Variety of Chicago Wedding Venues

Let’s start with the star of the show: the wedding venue. **Chicago wedding venues** are in a league of their own, and the sheer range of options means every couple can find something that matches their vibe. Want an urban rooftop overlooking the city lights? Got it. How about a charming historic mansion or an intimate art gallery for a more personal touch? Done. Chicago’s venue options are as diverse as the city itself, letting you choose between grand ballrooms, chic industrial lofts, lush gardens, and, of course, those stunning waterfront views along Lake Michigan.

What sets Chicago apart is its mix of modernity and tradition. One day, you’re at a sleek downtown spot with panoramic views; the next, you’re at a vintage, jazz-era landmark with endless character. And even with all these options, Chicago makes it easy to bring your vision to life, no matter what style you’re after. Each neighborhood adds its own flavor, from the glitz of the Gold Coast to the artsy vibes of Pilsen. Bottom line? Chicago offers unparalleled flexibility, so you’re never short on style.

A Food Scene That Dazzles Your Guests

Food can make or break a wedding, and Chicago’s culinary scene is a match made in heaven for food-loving couples. With some of the best chefs in the country calling Chicago home, you’re in for a feast that your guests will be talking about long after the last dance. Forget standard wedding fare; Chicago takes dining to the next level. You can go full-on gourmet with a five-course meal, keep it casual with a food truck serving local favorites, or even do something funky like a brunch wedding with Chicago-style pastries and Bloody Marys. The city is known for its deep-dish pizza, craft cocktails, and creative fusion foods, so if you want your menu to have personality, Chicago’s the place.

Another advantage? Many venues partner with top-tier catering services, so you get access to the city’s finest without having to dig too deep. And if you want to show off the local flavor, consider adding a Chicago food tour to your wedding weekend festivities. Your guests will experience everything from iconic Italian beef sandwiches to avant-garde molecular gastronomy, giving them a taste of what makes Chicago’s food scene unforgettable.

Breathtaking Views for Unforgettable Photos

There's no wedding without photos, and in Chicago, the city itself becomes a part of the magic captured in each shot. From stunning architecture to lakeside vistas, this city offers endless backdrops that elevate any wedding album. The skyline is always picture-perfect, whether it's set against the afternoon sun or lit up at night. Millennium Park and Grant Park provide some of the city's most iconic spots, with the famous Bean (Cloud Gate) sculpture adding a fun, reflective twist to your photos.

For those who want something a little different, Chicago's neighborhoods bring a whole new level of charm. The cobblestone streets of Old Town, the murals of Logan Square, or the scenic Riverwalk can all add that little extra something to your photos. Imagine your wedding portraits with the city's landmarks in the background, blending urban edge with romance. Plus, with a city as big as Chicago, there's no need to deal with the hassle of [planning a beach wedding](#); the city's stunning lakefront and waterfront views give you all the beauty of a seaside backdrop without the sand or seagulls.

Endless Activities to Make It a Wedding Weekend

These days, weddings are more than a day-long event these days—they're weekend extravaganzas. Chicago makes it easy to keep the party going for days, with endless activities to keep your guests entertained and relaxed. Start off with a welcome dinner at one of Chicago's legendary steakhouses, like Gibson's or Prime & Provisions, to give your guests a warm Windy City welcome. For those looking to get a taste of the city, organized tours, like the architecture river cruise, are both iconic and highly recommended.

If you're thinking of a longer stay, Chicago's museum scene is hard to beat. Your guests can explore the [Art Institute of Chicago](#) and the Field Museum or spend a day at Navy Pier for a more casual experience. The shopping along Michigan Avenue, known as the Magnificent Mile, is also a great option for anyone who wants to explore a bit of the city's luxe side. Chicago's vibrant nightlife and incredible dining options offer all the ingredients for an unforgettable wedding weekend that stretches beyond the ceremony and reception. It's a chance to let your guests experience the city's culture and energy, turning your wedding into a truly immersive experience.

Accommodation Options That Fit Every Budget

One of the many perks of getting married in a big city like Chicago is the endless variety of accommodation options. Your guests, whether coming from down the road or across the country, will have no trouble finding a place to stay that suits their style and budget. From high-end hotels with skyline views to cozy boutique stays, Chicago has it all. If you're aiming for luxury, the Ritz-Carlton and The Peninsula offer an experience that's as glamorous as your wedding day. But there are also more budget-friendly options that still put your guests in the heart of the city, making it easy for them to get around without breaking the bank.

Beyond hotels, Chicago also offers a great selection of vacation rentals, allowing families or groups to stay together in spacious, homey environments. Staying at a stylish Airbnb in the neighborhoods surrounding downtown can give your guests a unique, more personal experience. So, no matter your guests' travel style or budget, everyone can enjoy a comfortable stay, which makes planning a lot less stressful for you.

Four Seasons of Vibes: Why Chicago Shines Year-Round

While summer weddings might be popular, Chicago is a year-round stunner. Each season brings its own magic, making it possible to plan your dream wedding at any time of year. Spring brings blooming flowers and sunny days that are perfect for garden ceremonies. Fall paints the city with warm tones, making outdoor photos pop with color. If you're daring, a winter wedding in Chicago can be nothing short of enchanting, with snow-covered backdrops and cozy, intimate venues.

Chicago's ability to shine in every season gives couples flexibility when it comes to planning. Many venues offer both indoor and outdoor options, so you're covered no matter the weather. And because there's so much to do indoors, your guests can stay entertained even if the weather doesn't fully cooperate. So whether you're a fan of summer warmth or winter wonderlands, Chicago offers a backdrop that's ready for every season's charm.

The Perfect Place to Say "I Do"

A wedding in Chicago is more than just a ceremony; it's an experience. With the city's stunning variety of venues, a food scene that's tough to top, and endless ways to keep your guests entertained, Chicago becomes the wedding destination that's easy to fall in love with. No matter where you're from, the Windy City offers something special that leaves you and your guests with memories that'll last a lifetime. Whether you're drawn to the urban edge, the historic charm, or simply the thrill of a city that never sleeps, Chicago delivers a wedding experience that's as unforgettable as the love you're celebrating.

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Is Blockchain the Best Thing to Happen to Art? Here's the Good News

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Art is experiencing a revolution, and blockchain is at the heart of it. From creating new ways for artists to share and sell their work to offering unprecedented control over intellectual property, blockchain is reshaping the art world in ways that once seemed impossible. For those interested in how technology is impacting the creative landscape, these developments are more than just trends—they represent a shift in how art is created, distributed, and valued. Here are five ways that blockchain is providing good news for artists, each offering a glimpse into the future of art in the digital era.

Digital Art and Social Media Are Changing the Art World

The combination of **digital art and social media** has opened up entirely new ways for artists to connect with audiences. As artists increasingly move their work online, social media platforms provide a space to showcase digital art, reach new fans, and build communities around their creative practice. This shift has allowed artists to transcend geographical boundaries, making it easier to gain recognition and sell their work to a global audience.

With the help of blockchain, artists are finding even more ways to leverage this digital landscape. By using blockchain to record ownership and transactions, digital artworks can be verified as originals, even in a medium that is often copied or shared freely. This gives artists the ability to prove authenticity and value, creating a new sense of scarcity and uniqueness for digital creations. The combination of digital art and blockchain offers artists a way to capitalize on the digital shift, while also protecting their creative rights in an online world.

Asset Tokenization is Helping Artists Monetize Their Work

Among the most significant breakthroughs in the art world's adoption of blockchain is **asset tokenization**. This concept has brought a fresh approach to how artists can monetize their creations, making it possible to break down a single piece of art into digital tokens that represent shares in the artwork. These tokens can then be sold to collectors, allowing multiple people to own a part of a piece of art, while the artist retains control over the original.

Asset tokenization creates new opportunities for artists to generate income, as they can sell digital shares of a painting, sculpture, or digital artwork without parting with the entire piece. This is especially appealing for artists who want to retain ownership or display their work while still benefiting financially. Tokenization also allows for a broader base of investors to get involved in the art market, making it more accessible to people who may not have the resources to purchase an entire artwork.

NFTs Redefine Ownership in the Digital Art World

Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are a **hot trend in the art world**, and for good reason. They represent a new way for artists to secure and sell their digital work, using blockchain to create a unique digital signature that verifies ownership. Unlike cryptocurrencies, which are interchangeable, each NFT is unique, representing a one-of-a-kind digital asset.

For digital artists, NFTs offer a way to solve a long-standing problem: how to maintain the value of digital art in a world where images and audio files can be easily copied. With NFTs, artists can sell digital originals, offering collectors a chance to own the verified version of a work, even if copies continue to circulate online. This creates a sense of scarcity that adds value to digital art in the same way that a signed physical painting or sculpture might.

Blockchain is Improving Copyright Protection for Artists

Copyright issues have plagued the art world for decades, with artists often struggling to protect their work from unauthorized use. Blockchain is offering a new solution to this problem by creating a permanent, tamper-proof record of ownership. When an artist registers their work on a blockchain, they create a timestamped record that serves as proof of creation, making it easier to resolve disputes about who owns the rights to a piece of art.

For digital artists, this is particularly valuable. In an online world where images and videos can be copied and shared with a click, having a verifiable record of creation and ownership provides a powerful way to protect their intellectual property. It also means that artists can license their work more easily, offering digital rights to collectors or brands while maintaining control over how their creations are used.

Digital Marketplaces Can Expand Artists' Reach

One of the most significant benefits of blockchain for artists is the rise of digital marketplaces where they can sell their work directly to collectors and fans. These marketplaces use blockchain to verify the authenticity of artworks, ensuring that buyers know they are purchasing original pieces or limited editions. This transparency builds trust between artists and collectors, making it easier for artists to reach a larger global audience without relying on traditional galleries or auction houses.

Digital marketplaces also allow artists to keep a larger portion of the sale price, as they eliminate the need for intermediaries. This can significantly boost an artist's income, especially compared to the high commissions taken by traditional art markets. For many artists, the ability to set their own prices and engage directly with buyers is a liberating change, providing more control over their career and creative output.

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What Are the Best Dog Breeds for Busy Pros? Find Your Perfect Work-Life Companion Here!

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Let's face it—life for a busy professional can be a whirlwind. Between work, social commitments, and that much-needed downtime, finding a dog breed that fits your lifestyle isn't just a bonus; it's essential. The right dog can offer companionship, emotional stability, and even a bit of motivation to stay active. Some dogs just seem to understand the hustle, thriving alongside you without demanding every spare second of your attention. Let's dive into the top breeds perfect for busy people, along with what makes each so well-suited for those on the go.

French Bulldog: Low-Energy, High Love

If you're looking for a buddy who's big on personality but won't need a marathon walk every day, the French Bulldog could be your match. Frenchies are known for their affectionate nature and low-energy lifestyle, making them one of the best dogs for apartment dwellers and those with

packed schedules. This breed is a master at adapting to your pace—if you’re up for a quick play session, they’ll join in, but if you’re having a quiet evening, they’re just as happy lounging by your side.

Beyond their easygoing vibe, French Bulldogs don’t experience intense separation anxiety, a huge plus for anyone with long hours. Their love for their humans means they’ll be there, waiting at the door with wagging tails, ready to lift your mood after a stressful day. Frenchies are affectionate, compact, and resilient little companions who adapt incredibly well to a bustling urban life, making them ideal for high-paced lifestyles.

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel: All the Emotional Support, None of the Demands

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are the ultimate comforters. Known for their gentle and empathetic nature, they’re pros at sensing emotions and providing comfort without making a fuss. Whether you’ve had a rough day or are celebrating a win, Cavaliers somehow know just how to be there for you. And, as an added benefit, they don’t require hours of intense exercise, meaning you can still fit in a few short walks and call it a day.

These dogs offer an especially unique perk for busy professionals: they exemplify **how pets provide emotional support**. Cavaliers are known for connecting with their people on an emotional level, helping you feel centered and calm after a busy day. They’re also perfectly happy to curl up on the couch with you during your downtime, making them both emotionally intuitive and physically low-maintenance. If you’re looking for a true friend who intuitively ‘gets’ you, a Cavalier might just be the dog that keeps you grounded through every deadline and project.

Boston Terrier: Fun-Loving Yet Independent

If you want a dog with a big personality but minimal maintenance, Boston Terriers are a top pick. Known for their spunky and social nature, Boston Terriers love to play but won’t sulk if you need a day to yourself. They’re small, adaptable, and easy to train, making them well-suited for urban environments and busy schedules alike. Boston Terriers have an almost human way of showing affection—expect some serious eye contact from these little charmers. And since they don’t need much exercise, they’re easy to please with just a couple of walks or a quick playtime session.

One disadvantage with Boston Terriers is that their digestive systems are sensitive, but **kangaroo dog food** has been shown to help with this breed’s issues like skin irritations and allergies, which can be common for Boston Terriers. Adding this type of food to their diet not only keeps their tummies happy but ensures they stay comfortable and healthy. With their unique blend of independence and love for social interaction, Boston’s strike the perfect balance for those who need a loyal yet low-key sidekick.

Greyhound: The Surprisingly Laid-Back Athlete

Greyhounds might be known for their racing skills, but when it comes to their day-to-day demeanor, these dogs are famously calm and relaxed. In fact, many Greyhound owners jokingly refer to them as “45-mile-per-hour couch potatoes” because, after a quick sprint, they’re more than content to snooze for hours. Their energy levels are relatively low, meaning they don’t demand constant action, making them fantastic for people who want a larger dog without the endless energy of a lab or retriever.

Greyhounds thrive in routine and are known for their loving yet reserved temperament. They're independent and don't suffer from separation anxiety, which is a huge bonus for those with variable schedules. Plus, their short coats mean minimal grooming. A few brisk walks and a comfy bed to stretch out on, and you've got yourself a happy Greyhound. For anyone needing a little peace and quiet after a long day, Greyhounds offer the ideal blend of calm companionship and low-maintenance care.

Chihuahua: Big Personality in a Tiny Package

Don't let the Chihuahua's size fool you; these dogs are packed with personality and resilience.

Chihuahuas are intelligent, fiercely loyal, and adaptable. Whether you're living in a small apartment or a suburban home, this breed can make any space their own. They're easy to carry, low-maintenance, and don't need long walks—just enough activity to keep them happy, which is perfect for professionals who may only have pockets of time throughout the day.

Chihuahuas are also known for their strong bond with their owners, which is great for anyone who wants an affectionate pet without the hefty physical demands. Because of their size and loyalty, Chihuahuas can comfortably tag along to certain workplaces, especially in pet-friendly settings, or simply enjoy the routine of waiting for you at home. They're alert, affectionate, and deeply loyal, which can bring a nice contrast to the often chaotic lives of busy pros.

Finding Your Ideal Four-Legged Companion

For busy professionals, finding the right dog breed means more than just picking a cute face—it's about choosing a companion that aligns with your lifestyle, energy level, and daily routine. These five breeds offer a mix of loyalty, low-maintenance needs, and adaptability, making them ideal for high-paced, urban lives. So, if you're ready to bring a dog into your life, consider one of these top breeds and discover how a well-matched pet can turn even the busiest of days into something to look forward to.

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How Cultural Perceptions Influence Our Approach to Health

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Health beliefs aren't shaped in isolation. They're molded by the environments, communities, and histories we're exposed to from childhood. Different cultures develop unique ways of viewing health care, from preventative practices to healing methods.

What might seem normal or essential in one region could be considered unnecessary elsewhere.

These contrasts often arise due to societal values like collectivism versus individualism or long-standing traditional systems.

To fully understand global approaches to wellness, this article explores how culture affects individual mindsets, choices, and behaviors in healthcare.

Western Beauty Standards and the Rise of Medical Aesthetics

Western cultures often promote youthfulness and symmetry as benchmarks for beauty. The pressure to meet these ideals has driven many to explore medical aesthetics, from Botox injections to fillers.

A significant increase in **demand for non-invasive procedures** highlights a cultural shift. More individuals prioritize cosmetic enhancement not just as luxury but as self-care, boosting mental well-being alongside physical appearance.

Social media platforms play a massive role in spreading aesthetic trends globally. Influencers popularize procedures like facial contouring, making them more accessible and desirable across different demographics and age groups today.

Eastern Approaches to Holistic Wellness

In many Eastern cultures, wellness focuses on balance between mind, body, and environment. Traditional practices like acupuncture or Ayurvedic medicine emphasize prevention over treatment by aligning energy flows within the body.

Rather than isolating physical symptoms, Eastern health systems aim for overall harmony. For instance, Chinese herbal remedies are often paired with diet adjustments to restore internal balance before medical interventions become necessary.

This holistic view extends into mental well-being, too. Meditation techniques from traditions such as Zen Buddhism encourage mindfulness as part of daily life to reduce stress while improving focus and emotional stability.

The Influence of Social Media on Global Health Perceptions

Social media platforms have a massive role in shaping health trends. Instagram influencers, TikTok creators, and YouTubers frequently promote wellness products or routines that influence millions worldwide.

Health messages spread quickly across these networks. From diet fads to workout programs, users often turn to social feeds for advice instead of consulting professionals, blurring the line between informed decision-making and misinformation.

Cross-cultural exchanges are also common. Yoga practices rooted in India or traditional remedies from Asia gain global popularity through viral content, impacting how individuals perceive healthcare choices outside their native environments today.

Traditional Healing Practices and Modern Medicine: Bridging Gaps

Traditional healing methods, such as herbal medicine or energy therapies, have long histories in many cultures. As modern medicine evolves, healthcare systems **increasingly recognize** the value of integrating these approaches.

Hospitals worldwide now incorporate acupuncture, yoga therapy, and mindfulness techniques alongside standard treatments. Such collaboration aims to fill gaps where conventional treatment may fall short.

For example, acupuncture is often used to manage chronic pain when opioids or surgeries aren't effective. These hybrid strategies foster more personalized care plans that consider the patient's physical and emotional needs while respecting cultural heritage.

The Cultural Impact of Weight Loss Drugs Like Ozempic

Weight loss drugs, especially Ozempic, have sparked cultural debates around body image and health. In some regions, slimming medications are praised for helping people reach societal beauty standards quicker than traditional dieting or exercise.

However, critics argue that over-reliance on these drugs promotes unhealthy expectations. Social media has also raised awareness about side effects like Ozempic butt. Typically, **what Ozempic butt** does is create a hollowed appearance in the skin due to rapid weight loss.

Despite these concerns, the demand for weight management drugs continues to grow. Many see them as game-changers in battling obesity-related conditions such as diabetes or heart disease.

Parting Shot

Health is more than just medicine or treatment; it's a tapestry of traditions, beliefs, and innovations. When you embrace diverse cultural perspectives on wellness, you open doors to richer insights and transformative approaches.

Consider the wisdom in balancing modern techniques with age-old practices. Integrating varied health paradigms unlocks new potential for holistic well-being. This journey invites curiosity and collaboration, encouraging us to learn from each other's paths to health.

So, feel free to explore this global conversation further—who knows what unique remedies or understandings might enhance our lives? Health isn't static; it evolves with every culture we engage in.

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When What's New is New Again

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Led Zeppelin and Wu Tang-influenced dance in Hollywood and downtown; elegant craftsman mansion goes site specific in Pasadena; triptych of new work fest downtown; museum garden under surveillance in Culver City; ballet on skid row; Stephen Sondheim with three choreographers in Little Tokyo; contemporary dance in Santa Monica, Atwater Village, and Venice; opera choreographer moves into the director's chair downtown; more SoCal dance this busy week (to November 7), and a peek at next week (to November 14).

Live This Week

Doing it in threes

This year's three-week **New Original Works (NOW) Fest** opens with three performances over three nights. Choreographer **Bernard Brown** turns his attention to the Black Gay bar as a haven, taking his title from the disco-era ballad *Sissies: Something Perfect Between Ourselves*. The cast of seven are backed by live DJ Defacto X. In the second performance, **Meena Murugesan's** *Dravidian Futurities: Chapter II*, draws on movement, visual art, and music to ponder a sunken land mass underneath the convergence of the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea that once linked South India with Africa. The third part of the triptych gathers Eliza Bagg, Rohan Chandler and George Miller to essay Alban Berg's *7 Early Songs*. Next week it's Tijuana Dance Company, Ajani Brannum and Sophia Cleary. Week 3 brings Bret Easterling and Kensaku Shinohara. Full festival info at the website. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 7-9, 14-16, & 21-23, 8:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [REDCAT](#).



Bernard Brown. Photo by Steve Rosa

Off the street

The dancers of **Hollywood Ballet** continue their efforts to bring ballet to non-traditional venues with another show *For Skid Row*. On the classic side, co-artistic director Petra Conti dances *Dying Swan*, while Emily Van Citters and Chris Flores essay *Diane and Acteon*. In a contemporary mode, a new work by Natalie Palmgren features Lena Harris and a new work by Lisa Ritter showcases Katherine Thomas. The afternoon performance is free with reservation. Midnight Mission, 601 San Pedro St., downtown; Thurs., Oct. 31, 2:30 pm, free with reservation at [Hollywood Ballet](#).



Hollywood Ballet's Petra Conti. Photo by Reid Hutchinson

Watching in the garden

The garden of this museum becomes the stage as **Heidi Duckler Dance** explores the role of surveillance in societal control. Choreographed by HDD artistic director Heidi Duckler, the site-specific event, *What Remains Un/Seen*, references themes in the museum's current exhibition *Counter/Surveillance*. A self-guided gallery tour at 4 pm precedes the first show. A second tour at 7 pm follows the second show. The performers include dancers Alejandro Perez, Sasha Rivero, Joseph Stevens, and Kayla Gabrielle. Singer Dwight Tribble and his LA-based band Cosmic Vibrations provide the music, and Efren Delgadillo Jr. designed the scene in the garden. Wende Museum, 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Sat., Nov. 2, 5 & 7 pm, self-guided tour at 4 or 7 pm. free w/reservation (\$20 donation suggested) at [Heidi Duckler](#).



Heidi Duckler Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

Airborne

More than ten Led Zeppelin songs provide the title for *LedZAerial Symphony* as **Luminario Ballet** brings its signature blend of aerial and ballet to this performance and fundraiser featuring 11 dancers and aerialists, plus a 12-member orchestra. The Avalon Hollywood, 1735 N. Vine St., Hollywood; Sun., Nov. 3, show 8 pm, \$40-\$125, pre-show gala 5:30 pm, \$400-\$600. [Eventbrite](#).



Luminario Ballet. Photo by Ted Soqui

Digital/analog

The solo **Vanessa Hernández Cruz** premiered at last year's REDCAT NOW Festival, *Exhale Static, Inhale Fumes*, opens this two-part show considering the search for community in a hyper-digital age. The second work, another premiere, *Rain Glass Vortex*, involves the

choreographer/dancer on stage with a live-streamed quartet of Queer, BIPOC, disabled artists. The four dancers are Em Waters, Ande Diedjomahor, India Harville, and Lu Chen. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Nov. 1-2, 7:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [Highways](#).



Vanessa Hernández Cruz. Photo by Angel Origgi

Time travel

Venture back from the 1950's to 1999 as the dancers and storytellers of **Lineage Dance** unveil a site-specific performance series at the historic Pasadena edifice known as the Gamble House. In *A Matter of Time*, the audience follows the dancers through the house, as each room tells a tale of that era's important cultural, political and historical events. The Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; Fri.-Sun., Nov. 1-3, 7 pm, \$75, \$45 students & seniors. [Lineage PAC](#).



Lineage Dance Company. Photo by Steven Hwan

Enter through the alley

Opening its third season, *Work in Progress LA* spotlights **Marissa Brown** and **Daria Kaufman**. Organized by choreographers Kate Wallich, Stephanie Zaletel and Belize Wilhelm, this artist-run collective partners with this venue to “stir up deep dance discourse” in the LA dance community. The changing line up for the monthly Monday events run through next April, each providing a peek and preview of what some of LA’s cutting-edge choreographers are up to. G-Son Studios, 3218 Glendale Blvd., Atwater Village (enter through the alley); Mon., Nov. 4, 7:30 pm, \$15. [WIP LA](#).



Marissa Brown. Photo courtesy of the artist

50 years behind the masks

For five decades, the Swiss phenomenon **Mummenschanz** has enchanted and mesmerized audiences with its distinctive combination of movement, puppetry, and comedy. Simply titled *50 Years*, this show promises a curated compilation of the troupe's best. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Nov. 2, 3 pm, \$43-\$95. [The Soraya](#).



Mummenschanz. Photo by Marco Hartmann

Opera dances

Known for her contemporary troupe *Hysterica*, dance films among other projects, Kitty McNamee

also has been a frequent choreographer for **LA Opera**, including the 2005 and 2011 productions of Gounod's *Romeo & Juliet*. This time McNamee is directing that opera and has set chorus and leads dancing as well as singing. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., Nov. 2 & 23, 7:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 10 & 17, 2 pm, Thurs. Nov. 14 & Wed., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm, \$33.50-\$400. [LA Opera](#).



LA Opera's "Romeo and Juliet." Photo by Robert Millard

Back to the overture

When **East West Players** chose Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures* for the 50th anniversary of the show's Broadway premiere, it also back former artistic director Tim Dang who directed the show when EWP moved to its current mid-sized theater in Little Tokyo. Dang not only brings a background in dance, he brought in three additional choreographers — Broadway dancer/choreographer Yuka Takara, Kabuki consultant Kirk Kanesaka (aka Ganky? Nakamura), and fight director Amanda Noriko Newman. The show continues EWP's long history presenting Sondheim in a theater sized to allow audiences to see the full show and still hear every precious lyric. David Henry Hwang Theater in the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo; opens Thurs., Nov. 7, 8 pm, then Thurs., Fri. & Mon, 8 pm, Sat. 2 & 8 pm, Sun. 5 pm, thru Dec. 1. \$15-\$74. [East West Players](#).



East West Players' "Pacific Overtures." Photo by Teolindo

Ballet through mud

Choreographer Yusha-Marie Sorzano and her **Sorzano Dance Works** join Wu-Tang Clan mastermind **RZA** in a one-night only concert performance of his album *A Ballet Through Mud*. Conducted by Oliver Zeffman and performed by USC Thornton School of Music students and alumni, the concert blends hip hop and classical music with dance. Los Angeles Theatre, 615 S. Broadway, downtown; Mon., Nov. 4, 6:30 pm, free w/reservation at [Tickets](#).



RZA and dancers. Photo by Danny Hastings

All electric

For the November edition of **High Voltage**, this mostly monthly event offers an eclectic blend of *World Music & Dance*. Timed to coincide with the First Friday on nearby Abbot Kinney Blvd., guests can check out the food truck and open galleries before heading to the show. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., Nov. 1, 8 pm, \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at door. [High Voltage](#).



Max 10. Photo courtesy of the artists

It's a 10

The mostly monthly program **Max 10** gives ten performers ten minutes each onstage. Hosted by venue director Joel Shapiro and curated by the staff, dance is a mainstay in the lineup of performances. A post-show reception gives a chance to chat with the artists. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Nov. 4, 7:30 pm, \$10. [Electric Lodge](#).

Back on the Beach

The granddaddy of all the cirques, **Cirque du Soleil**, returns with its signature tent and the show *Kooza*, brimming with acrobats and clowns. The two month run offers lots of time to catch the show, maybe more than once? Under the Big Top at Santa Monica Pier, 1550 Pacific Coast Hwy., Santa Monica; thru Sun., Jan. 5, \$58-\$344. Details on the many dates and times at the website. [Kooza](#).



Cirque du Soleil. Photo courtesy of the artists

Last blood

The immersive rock musical **Blood/Love: A Vampire Popera** winds up its run at the aptly named Crimson, a Hollywood pop up gothic nightclub. The vampire-meets-rock-star event injects a devilish romance into the spooky season. The Crimson, 6356 Hollywood Blvd., First Floor, Hollywood; thru Sat, Nov. 2, 7 & 9:30 pm, \$59-\$119. [Blood/Love](#).



Blood/Love. Photo by Graham Washatka

Teasing

The title says it all: *The Empire Strips Back: A Burlesque Parody*. The show returns after its 2022 run at this venue. The Montalbán Theatre, 1615 Vine St., Hollywood; Opens Thurs, Oct. 11, 7:30 pm, then Thurs., 7:30 pm, Fri., 7 pm, Sat., 7 & 9:30 pm, Sun., 4 pm, thru Dec. 1. \$44-\$109. [The Empire Strips Back](#).

A Peek at Next Week (November 8-14)

A Day of Simone Forti at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Sun., Nov. 10, 3 pm, \$25, \$20 seniors/students. [Highways Performance](#).

MashUp Contemporary Dance Company — *Choreography Open Mic Night* at The Pickle Factory, 2828 Gilroy St., Frogtown; Sat., Nov. 9, 7 p.m., \$15. [MashUp Contemporary Dance Company](#).

Volta — *Ocean Ions* at Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach; Sat., Nov. 9, 4 p.m., free w/reservation at info@voltacollective.com.

Sergio Bernal Dance Company at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 pm, \$44.07-\$134.47. [SCFTA](#).



Backhausdance. Photo courtesy of the artists

Backhausdance at Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula; Sat., Nov. 9, 8 pm, \$25. [Tickets](#).

The Hip Hop Nutcracker at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Fri., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. \$40-\$90. [Cerritos](#).

New Original Works (NOW) Fest — *Ajani Brannum, Sophia Cleary, Tijuana Dance Company* at REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs., Nov. 14-16, 8:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [REDCAT](#).

Dance News of Note

Those looking forward to the annual **World Ballet Day** scheduled for November 1 with its world-wide livestream peek at ballet company classes and rehearsals sadly will have to wait until next year. San Francisco Ballet, Britain's Royal Ballet, and the Australian Ballet who organize and finesse the logistics of the 24-hour, world-wide event each fall, announced recently that this year's event will be postponed until next year. Limited info on the reasons at [World Ballet Day](#).

6 Ways Poetry Addresses Societal Challenges After Tragedy

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

In times of collective pain, art often steps in where words fall short. History shows how creative expression offers solace and clarity after tragic events.

Poetry, in particular, taps into shared emotions and gives a voice to the unheard. From personal grief to societal upheavals, it reflects on suffering while offering hope for healing.

To highlight its unique power, this article explores several ways poetry addresses societal challenges in the aftermath of tragedy.

Inspires Resilience and Hope

Poetry becomes a lifeline after collective tragedies. Its words carry emotions that can't be easily spoken, creating shared spaces for people to reflect on their strengths. Survivors find a sense of connection when they see their struggles mirrored in verses.

For instance, Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" has long been a powerful anthem for overcoming adversity. Its rhythm of defiance lifts spirits in times of despair, reminding communities that strength comes from standing tall together.

The beauty of poetry lies in its ability to reframe difficult experiences. Instead of lingering solely on pain, it transforms wounds into stories of resilience and survival, offering hope for the future.

Fosters Collective Healing

Communities may turn to poetry as a tool for coming together after tragedy. Whether read aloud in public gatherings or shared online, poems become touchpoints for communal grief and understanding.

In the aftermath of disasters like 9/11, works such as [Billy Collins' "The Names"](#) allowed audiences to mourn collectively while recognizing individual losses. Public readings offered catharsis, transforming solitary sorrow into shared moments of connection.

Poetry's universal themes transcend cultural barriers. That makes it accessible to everyone, regardless of background or personal experience. People bond through emotions, finding common ground in their shared humanity.

Offers a Means to Process Trauma

Trauma can leave survivors of tragedy feeling overwhelmed and unsure of how to process complex emotions. Poetry offers a safe framework for organizing those thoughts into words and structure.

Writing or reading poetry gives individuals a controlled space to explore their pain without feeling consumed by it. It transforms emotions into something tangible, allowing for reflection rather than chaos.

For some, poems can serve as an emotional **death checklist** for systematically acknowledging loss and sorrow through metaphor and imagery. These art pieces often take readers on a journey from shock to acceptance.

Honors and Memorializes the Lost

Society may use poetry to honor those lost in tragic events. Poems could be a permanent record, preserving the memory of individuals and communities who might otherwise fade from public consciousness.

During moments of grief, poets write to keep the stories of the deceased alive. Poetry distills their essence into lines that resonate far beyond personal grief or local tragedy.

Such works might discuss the deceased's contributions, character, or even their unfulfilled dreams. These poetic tributes often become timeless memorials, allowing future generations to engage with history on a personal level.

Challenges Social and Political Injustices

When tragedies expose system interruptions, poets often step forward to confront the underlying causes. Through sharp, poignant verses, they highlight societal inequalities or political failures that contributed to collective suffering.

Poetry's concise nature gives it power in protest movements. Whether recited at rallies or shared online, it amplifies voices that demand justice and change after a tragedy.

Amiri Baraka and Claudia Rankine have both used poems to highlight racial injustice and systemic violence. Their work demonstrates how poetry becomes more than just art, transforming into activism that pushes for accountability.

Bridges Generational Gaps in Experience

Poetry can help **connect generations**, especially after a tragedy when different age groups experience grief differently. Older individuals may have faced similar struggles before, while younger ones may be encountering deep loss for the first time.

Through poems, elders pass down their reflections and lessons learned from past events. Younger voices then add fresh perspectives and new insights into ongoing challenges. This exchange of thoughts fosters mutual understanding.

Parting Shot

Poetry's power lies in its ability to speak directly to the heart, cutting through chaos and pain after tragedy. As society continues to navigate hardships, poetry will remain a constant companion, challenging systems while offering hope and reflection.

Whether quiet whispers or bold declarations, these verses become both mirrors of reality and

beacons for change in uncertain times.

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Strengthening Cultural Ties with Artistic Immigrants

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Local communities and artistic immigrants who join those communities can mutually enhance one another through vibrant cultural exchanges. The infusion of diverse artistic talents can act as a bridge to connect varied backgrounds.

This article examines several ways in which the arts can serve as a cohesive force.

So, discover actionable strategies for cultivating inclusive environments where creativity flourishes – and communal bonds are strengthened in the process.

Understanding the Role of Artistic Immigrants in Cultural Exchange

Artistic immigrants can enrich communities with fresh perspectives and diverse expressions.

Their unique cultural backgrounds can bring a vibrant array of ideas to local arts scenes. By embracing their talents, communities can benefit from rich cultural tapestries.

Through the arts, they can communicate shared experiences and bridge gaps between cultures. This interaction not only fosters understanding but also creates a space where both immigrants and locals grow through mutual learning.

As communities recognize this valuable exchange, support networks will form around those artistic endeavors that celebrate diversity while strengthening community bonds naturally.

It's all about uniting artistic individuals – regardless of their backgrounds.

Therefore, communities shouldn't only form ties with artistic immigrants but also those artists from other countries who have work visas.

For example, those who have **eligibility for an O-1A visa** (which is a non-immigrant visa) can bring their expertise to the U.S. job market. The visa is for people who stand out in their professional field.

Community Engagement Through Shared Art Projects

Shared art projects offer a meaningful way for communities and artistic immigrants to connect.

When people collaborate on creative initiatives, they form bonds over shared experiences and mutual interests. This engagement helps everyone involved feel more invested in the community's cultural landscape.

Consider mural projects or musical ventures in public spaces where locals and immigrant artists work side by side. Such collaborations can transform public spaces into vibrant showcases of collective expression.

These endeavors also create dialogues between diverse groups, fostering understanding and acceptance.

By prioritizing inclusive projects, communities become welcoming places where every voice is valued, enhancing both social cohesion and cultural richness organically.

Supporting Local Artists from Immigrant Backgrounds

Communities grow richer when they uplift local artists with immigrant backgrounds. After all, these individuals bring unique skills and stories that broaden the artistic landscape.

Providing platforms, like galleries or open mic nights, helps these artists share their work widely. Such support not only nurtures creativity but also promotes cultural understanding.

And offering grants or scholarships specifically for immigrant artists can alleviate financial barriers, allowing them to pursue their passions without undue stress.

When communities invest in these talented individuals, they can create an inclusive environment where diverse artistic expressions thrive.

This support empowers artists and encourages vibrant cultural exchanges that benefit everyone involved.

Educational Workshops That Foster Cultural Appreciation

Educational workshops serve as excellent platforms for fostering cultural appreciation among community members and artistic immigrants. These sessions allow participants to explore diverse art forms while learning about the cultural contexts behind them.

Workshops on traditional crafts, music, [or dance](#), for example, encourage hands-on participation and deepen understanding of different heritages. They provide opportunities for artistic immigrants to share their expertise with locals, enhancing mutual respect.

Such programs often lead to insightful discussions and new friendships, breaking down stereotypes along the way.

By organizing [arts events](#) and workshops regularly, communities cultivate a more inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and respected.

The Takeaway

By embracing the unique contributions of artistic immigrants, communities can foster a vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape.

Through collaboration and support, these creative exchanges will not only enrich local art scenes but also strengthen bonds among diverse populations, creating unified communities.

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How to Make the Most of Your Time While on Holiday

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Holidays are precious times for escaping our daily routines and exploring new places. But it's easy to come home from a trip feeling you didn't make the most of your break. With some advance planning and a focus on meaningful experiences, you can ensure you get the maximum enjoyment and enrichment from your holiday time. Follow these tips to come home feeling refreshed, inspired and recharged.

Plan Ahead for Your Holiday

The key to maximising your holiday time is planning ahead. Before you go, spend some time researching your destination and make a list of the top things you want to see and do. Look at opening times for major attractions and work out an itinerary that allows you to fit in your must-see sights. Booking tickets for big attractions in advance will also save you time queuing when you're there. Packing strategically can also help – make sure you have comfortable shoes and clothing suitable for the activities on your itinerary. And pack some Lift Glucose Activ **Energy Boost** for when you need a pick-me-up between attractions.

Be Flexible

While advance planning is useful, don't be afraid to be spontaneous and go with the flow when you're actually on holiday. Talk to locals and fellow travellers for insider tips on hidden gems or events worth checking out. Allow time each day for wandering around and discovering things unplanned. Build in some spare time each day that can be used for either relaxing or doing an activity that takes your fancy at the last minute. Remaining flexible means you can take advantage of unexpected opportunities that enhance your trip.

Focus on Holiday Experiences

Holidays are a time to step out of your daily routine and **create memorable experiences**. Don't just aimlessly wander around ticking off a list of sights – take time to really immerse yourself in the local culture. Join a walking tour to hear fascinating stories from an expert guide. Take a cooking class to learn about local cuisine. Seek out festivals or community events that offer insight into traditional customs and ways of life. Trying new foods, learning local skills and connecting with local people will make your holiday time more meaningful.

Look After Yourself

It can be tempting to pack your holiday schedule full of non-stop activities and late nights. But this can easily lead to burnout, leaving you needing a holiday after your holiday! Be sure to build in ample time for relaxation. Don't feel like you have to be on the go from morning to night. Take a lazy afternoon to lounge by the pool or beach with a good book. Have an early night every few days to catch up on sleep. Stay hydrated and fuel your body with healthy food to keep your energy up. Looking after yourself will help you get the most out of your precious holiday time.

Disconnect from Devices

It's easy to let screens suck away huge chunks of holiday time. Be disciplined about **limiting time on your phone** checking emails and social media. Disable notifications so you're not constantly interrupted.

Follow these tips to come home feeling refreshed, inspired and recharged.

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How to Choose the Right Car for Your Lifestyle and Budget

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

When you're ready to upgrade your car or buy your first set of wheels, it can be daunting trying to pick the right model for your individual needs and budget. Follow this guide to choose a car that fits your lifestyle and financial circumstances, whether you're shopping for a family estate, a hot hatch, or a luxe model.

Assess Your Needs

Before looking at specific makes and models, consider what you will primarily use the car for. Factors like fuel efficiency, legroom, and boot space may be top priorities if you have a long commute or often carry lots of passengers or cargo. If you mostly drive locally and want something stylish, prioritise infotainment features and exterior styling.

Think about your must-have features – do you need an automatic or manual transmission? What safety tech and connectivity features are essential? This will help narrow your search.

Set Your Budget

Setting a maximum budget is vital when buying a car. Consider not just the sticker price, but also ongoing **costs like fuel**, tax, insurance and maintenance. Running costs vary dramatically between models.

Get insurance and loan quotes before setting a firm budget – this will give you a better idea of total affordability. Be sure to factor in deposit amount and monthly repayments if financing. Leave some wiggle room for unexpected costs.

Research Car Models in Your Price Range

Once you know your needs and budget, research models that fit the criteria. Websites like AutoTrader and Parkers allow you to search by price, body type, engine size and other filters. You can compare models side-by-side before visiting some local dealers.

Check reviews from industry experts regarding performance, comfort, running costs and reliability. Shortlist a few models for test drives. Don't limit yourself to one brand – shop around for the best value. For example, if you live in South Yorkshire, check out **cars for sale in Rotherham**, Sheffield, and Barnsley. You can compare prices and models until you narrow your search.

Take Test Drives

No amount of research compares to actually test driving a car yourself. This is when you can assess factors like seat comfort, visibility, cabin space and noise levels. Bring any regular passengers, like family members, along for their input.

Test drive your shortlisted models on a mix of roads to gauge ride comfort and handling. Don't feel pressured into making a decision – test drives are to help you make the right choice.

Compare Final Offers

Once you've settled on a preferred model, shop around at your preferred dealers to get the best price. Be ready to negotiate! Do your research on typical discounts for that make and model. Consider part-exchange deals, finance offers, free servicing packages and other perks that could lower total cost.

Weigh up final figures including on-the-road price, insurance, maintenance plans, finance terms and running costs. Avoid simply focusing on the lowest sticker price. The best value for you balances affordability with the right car for your needs.

Buying a car requires balancing practical needs with **emotional wants**. Following these guidelines will help any UK driver pick the ideal new car within their budget. Take your time and don't compromise on priorities. Enjoy the thrill of driving away in your perfect new set of wheels!

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Alan Yue: Two Poems

Alan Yue · Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

Ode to the Places I'll be Without You

Your space is empty.
 There is no voice to hold my quiet anymore.
 Lately, I have been reading your poetry word by word,
 mouth bending slow and voiceless so I hear you speak.
 Phantom limb disorder — I feel like you are still next to me, when you've left so long ago.
 I love you.
 Mornings fade into afternoons into nights into mornings — time is a tributary, you are the
 widenings.
 I will forget the pale sunlight out the window showing untainted colors of gifts — or memories
 These walls with graffiti are hollowing — our marks are being covered — something about selfish
 memories —
 there are pockets of still air that once rang with music.

*

Scenic Route

I am in Noah's car going 60 on Main Street. We play
 Autreche and Dolly Parton.
 Workin' 9 to KRRRRRRRRRR
 Dolly is workin' til the sound of her typewriter cracks
 turn to the car we swerved past. I think about writing this poem
 beat by beat. Every word alive. I can't count
 algorithmic noise. BEEP. Gene tells me to stop switching
 songs every 30 seconds. I decline. Noah's phone declines my fingers.
 How dare. I turn it off and turn it on. The password is 0088. The song is electric fruit.
 Sunny, with a chance of
 80 Fahrenheit. *What a way to make a living.* I wish.
 Noah slams the gas and we hurtle to the hills. I wish.
 Noah is floating, and so is his Hyundai. I wish.
 It's a flood. We are all the kinds of animals in the world. I wish.
 I change the song to Gene. He tells me "keep me".
 The song plays, we are punctually alive: Every muted thud of piano keys: heartbeats in time.

This little Toyota floats
 and it rained for 40 seconds and 40 seconds. I wish.
 we are all the kinds of world: Noah, Gene, Me. I kiss the window.
 The rain presses itself into little pecks before my lips.
 Gene is the song and he changes to Beastie Boys.
 Rain is all the heartbeats
 of the animals in the world. Us. I wish.
 Gene's music taste is non-algorithmic noise. Everywhere,
 baby! Beautiful. For 40 seconds we are awake in a blaring storm.
 Noah's honda crashes into a blue whale. It sings a little, cries a
 little. Ma Rainey plays through the clouds. *You can't tell the*
di?erence
when the sun goes down.
 Gene twists his fingers into 808s. He always was a breakdancer. Noah tells me
 he had Eskimo blood but not anymore because Eskimo is a slur. His hair only grows thicker, not
 longer.
 We workin 5 till we, all the animals of the world, live on.

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